**Brooksbank Elementary School PAC Meeting Minutes – December 16th, 2014**

Commence: 7:02 PM

Attendees: 19

**Chair Welcome and Update:** Catherine Stride

Jingle Mingle update and feedback:

* Great response and feedback from parents and students for this year’s event.
* Thank you to parents and staff for the help and hard work with the set up and take down.
* Games ran smoothly, with the exception of the spinning wheel needing to be repaired.
* The Jingle Shop was successful however there has been a suggestion put forth to hold back some of the items as the shop had been “picked over” by 6:30 PM, leaving less than adequate selection in some categories.
* Games were a very popular donation to the shop. The PAC will consider putting out a “Much Needed Items” list for next year to aid in donations.
* Wrapping supplies may be donated in January to be put aside for next year.
* Some parents offer to purchase tickets to donate to families who otherwise cannot participate.
* Anyone with questions, comments or suggestions may email the PAC directly.

Concerns were raised about the amount of donations and purchases required of parents within the first 2 months of school. Examples of these are school photos, the Card Project, special project fees, Big House, the Seymour Ski Program, plus the many requests of the PAC for Jingle Mingle items. While these are typical for the first term, this may have been compounded due to the late start to the school year, and the deadlines put in place by the vendors. Thank you to parents for your understanding.

**Principal’s/Vice Principal’s Report:** Arlene Martin

Thank you for the overwhelming support for the North Shore Family Services Toy Drive. The event was a huge success and the school support is greatly appreciated.

On Friday, December 19th, the Blueberries Band will be offering the students a holiday sing-along concert in the gym.

Friday is also PJ’s With A Purpose, an awareness project put together by the Do Good Committee. The Committee is focussing on creating awareness for various causes and issues, rather on just fundraising.

The Seymour Ski Program is full at 103 students, up from 80 last year. There will be a mandatory parent information session in January. The date is to be determined.

The Tennis Program starts again at Brooksbank on January 5th, taught by Marcus Andersson. The cost of this fun program is $15.00 per student. Notices have gone home this week.

The Christmas Concert “The Grinch” was a great success. Donations for the NSFS Toy Drive were collected this year in exchange for a pair of tickets, for ONE evening performance.

A question was raised about next year’s performances, being that we now currently have 385 students and Centennial Theatre (booked every 2 years) only seats 700. Other venues are being explored, as is the option of doing an Intermediate concert in the spring and dedicating the Christmas Concert to the primary divisions.

The Choir program has a request to keep the public concerts on the North Shore.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Lisa Stirling

In the Regular account we have $20, 490.50, not including outstanding expenses.

In Gaming, we have $6, 141.10.

Current fundraisers have earned the following:

Jingle Mingle: $5014.00

Fun Lunch: $12, 332.17

Purdy’s Chocolates: $677.00

Of the $23,000 approved budget, we have spent $6024.00

We wish to thank Lisa Stirling for her many years of service on the Brooksbank PAC and wish to note that Lisa Yahav will officially assume the role of Treasurer effective January 1st, 2015.

**NVDPAC Report:** Chandra Junck

The November 26th meeting focussed on a series of presenters. The first was the Friendship Club G at Highlands School, who offered information about a club founded to create an inclusive atmosphere for students with special needs, as was the case for a young student name Ges. They focussed on compassion and friendship rather than focussing on differences. The activities were student-led. More than 2/3’s of the students participate in Club G.

The other presentation was from the Cheakamus Centre (Outdoor School)

Cheakamus is a centre of environmental learning, sustainability and leadership. North Vancouver’s Outdoor school program is the only one of its kind in Western Canada.

An informational video will be made for the Fall of 2015, filmed and edited by our very own Chandra Junck. Chandra will film during our June Outdoor School session so Brooksbank children will be featured in the video.

The results of the NVDPAC Survey are in. Topics include parent-teacher relationships and parent demand for more classroom information and feedback.

**2015 Upcoming Events:** Catherine Stride

* Valentine’s Day Cards will be sold at the end of January, by Elizabeth Chang. Each box will be $2 and the proceeds will be split evenly between the Brooksbank PAC and The Kiwanis Lynn Valley Care Home.
* The Scholastic Book Fair will return in February (16-19th). The library will be set up for the week with a selection of pre-selected (by Scholastic) book titles, posters and other goodies for the students, parents and staff to choose from. This is not a PAC fundraiser, but rather the library receives the profits from the sale. Volunteers will be required for a variety of shifts, both lunchtime and afterschool.
* Lice 911: The folks at Lice 911 provided a great lecture last year for parents and we are considering inviting them back for a larger audience in the New Year.
* In March and April we will be offering the Purdy’s Spring Chocolate Fundraiser as well as the much anticipated Spring Plant Sale.
* The Teachers Appreciation Lunch will also take place in April; volunteers will be needed for menu items as well as food service and playground supervision.
* The Parents Night Out Event takes place in May. This year’s event will take place off-site, yet to be determined. It will not be a big fundraiser, but rather an occasion for staff and parents to socialize.

**January Parent Workshop:** Pat Link

Saleema Noon, Sexual Health Educator, will be here in January to work with students. She will provide open and informational sessions tailored to each age group. In addition, Saleema will be on hand on Monday, January 19th for an evening parent session to give an overview of what the children will be learning and to answer questions. More information to come regarding time, but information about Saleema Noon and her program can be found at [www.saleemanoon.com](http://www.saleemanoon.com)

Sexual Education books are also available to parents in the Brooksbank Library.

**Directory:** Pat Link

All families should have received a copy of the Brooksbank Student Directory. There were a few errors, but those have since been addressed. Some classes have fewer contacts, as some forms were not submitted. All of the information was processed by hand, so we thank parents for their patience and understanding. The PAC is in the process of creating a PDF version.

**Round Table:**

A reminder that Fun Lunch orders will close on Friday, December 19th, early evening.

Baking containers used to provide baking for the Jingle Mingle, as well as other future events should come fully labeled, both lids and containers. Some have gone missing, and the owners would be very appreciative for their return.

There is a Lost Hat poster hanging throughout the hallways. Nicole Cook’s youngest has lost it during the Jingle Mingle and it has great sentimental meaning. If it has gone home with your child by mistake, kindly return it to the office or to Nicole directly.

The Do Good Committee (Grades 4-7) meets Wednesday at lunchtime in the library. It is run by Vicky Milner and a host of volunteer staff and parents. Students are divided into groups to brainstorm ideas for how the school community can raise awareness and funds for charities and other youth initiatives.

The group’s latest project has been the creation of the school newsletter, the Brooksbank Monthly, overseen by Vicky Milner and Spencer Kelly.

Another of the group’s newest projects is the formation of the Drama Club.

The group also raised $1032.00 to purchase 4 goats for families in developing countries. Handmade cards and rafiki bracelets were sold at the Jingle Mingle to aid in the fundraising.

**Adjourn:** 8:29 PM.

Next meeting TBA.